

2 More Say CIA Taught Assasins

By WILFORD KALE

Times-Dispatch State Staff

WILLIAMSBURG — Two former employees of the Central Intelligence Agency told The Times-Dispatch Thursday night that the CIA has in the past trained men in the techniques of assassination at nearby Camp Peary, a Pentagon installation with very tight security.

One of the ex-employees, Victor L. Marchetti, also told The Times-Dispatch he "guessed" that some policemen have been trained by the CIA at Camp Peary. It was recently reported in New York and in Fairfax County that some policemen had been trained by the CIA in wire-tapping and surveillance.

Marchetti had told The Virginia Gazette, a Williamsburg weekly, earlier in the week that a number of "contract employees" of the CIA were trained at Camp Peary for participation in Operation Phoenix, a "counterterror" program in South Vietnam.

The other ex-employee, Patrick J. McGarvey, told the Gazette there was an informant system "financed, supported, trained, advised and directed" by CIA agents in South Vietnam. He said that that program became the backbone of the agency's assassination program there.

Marchetti and McGarvey told The Times-Dispatch that the assassination techniques were part of an 18-month paramilitary course at Camp Peary.

Marchetti, a former executive assistant to the CIA's deputy director also told The Times-Dispatch that Americans trained in assassination at Camp Peary were part of a cadre of U.S. agents who McGarvey said are used to train "foreign nationals" for the actual commission of the acts. McGarvey said the CIA then denies taking part in assassination programs.

The Virginia Gazette first

reported last December that Camp Peary was a training base for CIA agents. The paper also said it was believed that assassination techniques were a part of the training.

Angus A. Thuermer, who identified himself as assistant to the director of the CIA, told a Times-Dispatch Washington reporter in December that "statements about assassination training and teams are utterly without truth. The agency has never participated in or trained for assassination."

Thuermer said Thursday night, "The agency has never trained for or carried out assassination operations — ever."

McGarvey said of the "assassination team" mentioned in the Gazette's original story: "These men are trained individually in diverse paramilitary techniques and assassination is just one aspect of a CIA course, not a particular subject of study."

McGarvey left the CIA in 1968 after seven years of service. He recently published a book, "CIA: The Myth and the Madness."

Marchetti resigned from the CIA in 1969 after 14 years with the agency. He has written one book, "The Rope Dancer," a fictional account of intelligence activities. He is currently prohibited by a court injunction from publishing a nonfictional book on the CIA.

CIA Statements Support Camp Peary Allegations

WILLIAMSBURG (UPI) — The Virginia Gazette quoted two top officials of the Central Intelligence Agency Thursday as supporting allegations that some of the operatives involved in a "counter terror" program against the Viet Cong were trained at Camp Peary in York County.

The newspaper reported that Victor L. Marchetti, executive assistant to the deputy director of the CIA from 1966 to 1969, said that a number of the agents employed in "Operation Phoenix" in South Vietnam were trained at Camp Peary.

Marchetti described the operation as a "counter-terror program" that accounted for more than 40,000 deaths of Viet Cong during the period 1968-71.

The Gazette said Marchetti's statements were backed up by Patrick J. McGarvey, an intelligence analyst from 1963 to 1966. McGarvey was quoted as saying that "One of

the missions at Camp Peary is to train contract employees who are going out on specific assignment because of their own special skills."

"By 1967, when the Viet Cong infrastructure became one of the principal structures of the policy over there, it was decided just to try to wrap the whole thing up, to eliminate it," the paper quoted McGarvey as saying. "They call it neutralization of the infrastructure."

Asked specifically if Camp Peary trainees had participated in the Phoenix Operation, McGarvey replied "Some of them did. It was reasonable to assume that some career and contract personnel were being trained for these programs."

A spokesman in the office of the director of the CIA said Jan. 11 that he disputed Maggio's allegations published in the *Gazette* Dec. 22. "Mr. Maggio's allegations that the CIA trains for or participates in assassination operations is entirely untrue." Contacted subsequent to the interviews with McGarvey and Marchetti, the same spokesman repeated the denials concerning assassination operations, and refused comment on any of the CIA's operations in Vietnam.

After being told the CIA denial, Marchetti was asked if it were indeed true that the CIA ran the Phoenix assassination program. "Of course it is," he said. "They have so testified before Congress. William E. Colby, who is now the No. 3 man in the CIA — and at one time was under cover as an ambassador to Vietnam in charge of these matters — testified before Congress that the (Phoenix) program had been very successful."

BOTH MARCHETTI and McGarvey, however, disputed Maggio's allegation that "kill teams" have been garrisoned at Camp Peary. Marchetti said he had never heard of assassination squads being stationed at Camp Peary. He added, "As far as I know, they were all out in Vietnam."

Marchetti and McGarvey both also denied ever hearing about the CIA's possession or maintenance of nuclear weapons at Camp Peary, a charge made by Maggio. "What you're seeing (at Camp Peary) is no different than if you go to Ft. Bragg — jump training, night air ops, ambush training," Marchetti said.

"Their danger to this country is more subtle. If you accept the proposition that the United States government should be covertly involved in the internal affairs of another country in order to achieve its goals, that it should do things that are normally considered unethical and immoral in order to further U.S. influence overseas, then all this is acceptable. If you don't, then that is what is bad about it."

Both Marchetti and McGarvey said they had participated in several training courses at Camp Peary during their careers, and Marchetti noted that he instructed one course there. McGarvey left the U. S. intelligence community in 1969 after seven years experience, and is self-employed as a writer.

Marchetti resigned from the CIA after 14 years there, and wrote one book, "The Rope Dancers" — a fictional account of the intelligence community. He has been working on a nonfiction book about the CIA, but is under a court injunction prohibiting him from writing about that topic.

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CIA Denies Training Report

A spokesman for the Central Intelligence Agency this week denied a report that York County's Camp Peary is used to train CIA agents in the use of "mini-nuclear" weapons and the tactics of assassination.

The spokesman did not, however, specifically deny that Camp Peary is used as a CIA training base as charged in the current issue of a Williamsburg newspaper, the Virginia Gazette.

The Virginia Gazette story, based on lengthy interviews by two of the newspapers staff members with former CIA agent JOE Maggio, who has written a semi-fictional book about the agency, quoted Maggio as saying Camp Peary is used for training and experimentation in subversive and espionage activities — including such subjects as assassination, demolition, parachuting, wiretapping and intelligence gathering.

In reaction to the story, Angus A. Thuermer, who identified himself as assistant to the director of the CIA, called the Richmond Times-Dispatch's Washington Bureau to refute portions of these charges.

Maggio's statements "about assassination training and teams is utterly without truth," Thuermer is reported as saying.

"The agency has never participated in, or trained for, assassination," he added.

"The comment about nuclear mini-weapons is also equally untrue."

According to the Times-Dispatch, Thuermer never actually denied Camp Peary's role as a CIA training base, though he apparently did not confirm the report either.

Another former CIA agent, however, told Times-Dispatch staffers Camp Peary was the CIA's principal training base in the United States when he underwent training in the 1950s.

The unidentified former agent reportedly said further he believes the base is still used for this purpose from information he has gathered from contacts and personal friendships with present CIA employees.

Nevertheless, the paper said, he joined Thuermer in dismissing the reports of assassination teams and nuclear mini-weapons, saying he did not know of any such things at Camp Peary while he was there.

Maggio, however, insisted he would "stand by his sources of information," though he conceded his contentions of assassination training and use of nuclear devices were based on second-hand accounts.

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CIA Denies Use of Small Nuclear Weapons at Peary

WILLIAMSBURG (UPI)—A Central Intelligence Agency spokesman denied Wednesday allegations that mini-nuclear weapons were used in CIA training programs at Camp Peary, near here or in any other agency training program.

The CIA spokesman's comment came after a story published by the Virginia Gazette, a weekly newspaper, here, about operations at Camp Peary, a secrecy-cloaked Department of Defense installation. The Gazette said the base is actually a CIA training camp and has been for years.

The Gazette said its report was based on about four weeks of investigation by two staff members. The base was acquired 21 years ago by the Defense Department and labeled "an Armed Forces Experimental Training Activity" base.

Much of the newspaper's story was based on an interview with Joe Maggio, who said he was a former CIA operative with the Agency's Covert Special Operations Division. Maggio has written a novel about the CIA, entitled "Company Man." In the book he mentioned activities at a "Camp Perry." He told the newspaper the section on "Camp Perry" actually referred to the "Camp Peary" in York County.

The Gazette said its information from Maggio "indicates that the training methods and techniques covered by the CIA at Camp Peary include assassination training, demolition training, parachute training, courses in wiretapping and intelligence gathering and experiments with special weapons for use in the field, including what Maggio labeled as 'mini-nuclear bombs.'"

The CIA Spokesman "unequivocally" denied that the agency trained for or engaged in an assassination operations.

"The allegation about mini-nuclear weapons in any CIA training program or use by the Agency is utterly untrue," the spokesman added.

The spokesman also said Maggio had been "fired for cause from a Central Intelligence Training Program."

Maggio, 34, told the Gazette he was fired from the CIA in 1967 because he was doing some free lance writing while employed by the agency. He said his dismissal had nothing to do with performance of his CIA duties.

Maggio also told the Gazette he was "never in a position of responsibility" with the CIA, but spent a total of six months in training with the Agency at Camp Peary.

The Free Lance-Star, Fredericksburg, Virginia
Wednesday, December 27, 1972

Former agent confirms report

Camp Peary said a training camp for CIA

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (AP)—Is Camp Peary, a hush-hush Department of Defense installation in York County, Va., actually a training camp for the Central Intelligence Agency?

The Virginia Gazette, a weekly newspaper published in this restored colonial capital not far from the camp, says it is, basing its claim principally on an interview with an ex-CIA agent turned novelist.

Two reporters for the Gazette—news editor W. C. O'Donovan and Ed Offley—say in an article for the weekly that the CIA uses Peary to train teams of assassins, guerrillas, foreign mercenaries and special warfare agents, and to test exotic new weapons.

O'Donovan and Offley wrote that they were not permitted to enter the camp property and received, crisp "no comments" when they posed questions

to officials there.

Nearly all their information apparently came from former CIA man Joe Maggio, who wrote a novel—"Company Man"—which mentioned a "Camp Perry" at which tactical nuclear weapons were tested.

The Gazette said Maggio confirmed from his home in Coral Gables, Fla., that the "Camp Perry" in his novel in actuality was Virginia's Camp Peary,

taken over by the Department of Defense 21 years ago.

The newspaper said it was told by Maggio that he was at Camp Peary for three months in 1956, enrolled in a "special intelligence tradecraft course" given CIA recruits.

It said its interview with Maggio indicated the "training methods and techniques covered by the CIA" at Camp

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Peary included "assassination training, demolition training, parachute training, courses in wiretapping and intelligence-gathering, and experiments with special weapons for use in the field, including what Maggio labeled as 'mini nuclear bombs.'"

The Gazette quoted Maggio as saying, "I'm sure if you had a blue ribbon committee go in there, they'd find a whole new world—a Disneyland of war."

Maggio told the Gazette his recently published book was labeled fiction because "it never could have been published as nonfiction."

But the Gazette quoted him as saying "the information contained on Camp Peary is factual."

In "Company Man," Maggio writes that at "Camp Perry" rows of "old cars, tanks and AMTRACKS (amphibious personnel carriers) line up on a pulley to prove what the deputy director of science and technology can do with TNT, tetrachloride, C4 (plastic explosive), dynamite and highly classified, CIA-used nuclear bombs."

The Gazette article said the description of an ordnance testing area in "Company Man" matches an aerial photograph taken this month by the Gazette of Camp Peary's eastern corner.

Among other weapons the Gazette quoted Maggio as saying are being tested at Camp Peary were a laser beam weapon used to cause bodily deterioration within 24 hours, experimental formulas of drugs such as LSD, and a variety of chemical warfare materials.

"Some day, somewhere," the Gazette said it was told by Maggio in a taped telephone interview, "that base is going to have a catastrophe—some Dr. Strangelove explosion that really is going to rock that area."

When Camp Peary was acquired by the Department of Defense in 1951, it was called an "armed forces experimental training activity." It still is called that.

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